

NORTH CAROLINA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2005
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Chairman Tippet called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Offices in Greensboro, North Carolina. He introduced himself and the North Carolina Turnpike Authority Board members. Board members Sang Hamilton and Robb Teer were absent. Chairman Tippet welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was a public input comment meeting for the I-73/I-74 Connector. He stated that Chairman of the Board of Transportation Doug Galyon was present along with other Department of Transportation staff members. Chairman Tippet read the Governor's ethics statement.

Chairman Tippet stated that Board business would be handled first and then the public input session would begin. He stated that this was the sixth public meeting for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority. Chairman Tippet added that if anyone wished to address the Board and had not signed up, to please do so at that time. He thanked Brent McKinney with PART, Sandy Carmany and all others involved in hosting the meeting as well as the dinner and reception the night before.

Chairman Tippet called on Secretary-Treasurer Perry Safran to present the May minutes for approval. The minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman Tippet called for committee reports.

Chairman Tippet began with the Executive Committee and stated that the Board previously adopted several policies that would be presented to the Board at the July meeting for approval at that time. Copies of the policies were included in each of the Board members folders for their review and discussion, if necessary. Chairman Tippet added that staff would build a notebook including these policies as well as any future policies. Chairman Tippet said that a public meeting had been scheduled for the afternoon of August 29 with the public hearing session on August 30 in the morning. He added that this meeting might substitute for the September meeting. Chairman Tippet stated that Board member Perry Safran reported that discussions are ongoing for requests for quotes for general counsel. Chairman Tippet provided a Legislative update stating that a fifth project, the Currituck Bridge, had been added to the list of four previously chosen projects. He added that the NCTA would work with the Legislature throughout the session on these issues.

Board member Bob Spencer reported that the Finance Committee was absent one Board member to make quorum but had two items to present to full board for approval. Mr. Spencer presented the budget for the next two years for approval

but added that they would likely further amend it at the next meeting or two depending upon the naming of an Executive Director. A motion was made to approve the budget. The motion was unanimously approved. The second item presented was a motion to form a task order for the general consultant, HNTB, to proceed with work that was approved at the May meeting. The work would include assisting the NCTA in preparing a cash flow schedule and a long-range budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board member Allan Dameron stated that the Personnel Committee would make a motion to accept a contract effective June 16 naming an executive director. He added that an additional clause would be added to the contract, which would not affect salary or other details of that nature, but allowing the executive director to sign off on items on behalf of the Turnpike Authority.

Chairman Tippet announced that David Joyner had been named as the Executive Director for the Turnpike Authority, and asked Mr. Joyner to join him and Mr. Dameron. Chairman Tippet asked that all in favor of the contract for hiring Mr. Joyner to please show their agreement by saying aye and those opposed to say nay. The contract was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dameron introduced Mr. Joyner as the new Executive Director of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority. Mr. Joyner addressed the Board. He thanked everyone for being patient during the selection process and asked for their continued patience during his transition into this new role. Mr. Joyner thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve them and the state of North Carolina in this capacity.

Chairman Tippet thanked Mr. Joyner and added that his office would be located in the Highway Building in Raleigh for a few months, but would be located off site once offices have been secured for the Turnpike Authority.

Board member John Culbertson provided an update for the Plans and Programs Committee. He said that the committee received an update from HNTB which confirmed that they are making good progress on what is essentially eight task orders. Mr. Culbertson added that the committee would receive information at a later time on developing a scope for the request for proposal process for the NEPA process. He stated that NCTA staff person Gail Grimes proposed a recommendation to help streamline the contract process for the Authority. Mr. Culbertson added that the committee was very much in favor of formulating these policies and procedures that Ms. Grimes recommended.

Mr. Culbertson reported that the NCTA had been asked by several people in the eastern part of the state to begin a study program for the US 70 Corridor, and that a field investigation to review this area would be conducted on June 27 by NCDOT staff and Mr. Joyner. He said that the Board members have been asked

to participate in reviewing several projects in this area to see if a toll facility would be feasible along the US 70 Corridor if available.

Chairman Tippettt concluded the business portion of the meeting and began the public comment period.

The Board received public input on a candidate toll project, the I-73/I-74 Connector, following a welcome by PART Board of Trustees Sandy Carmany and Chairman of the Board of Transportation Doug Galyon, and a project overview by PART Director Brent McKinney, who all supported the project.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Larry Williams, PART Treasurer and Mayor of Rural Hall
Becky Smothers, PART Board Member and Mayor of High Point
Don Kirkman, Executive Director of Piedmont Triad Partnership
Gayle Anderson, President of Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Otis Tillman, PART Board Member and member of Piedmont Triad International Airport
Jim Memory, Mayor Pro Tem of Kernersville
Murray Greason, Womble Carlyle, Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of Wake Forest Board of Trustees
Mike Simmons, NC A&T State University and Chairperson of Transportation Institute
Allen Joines, Mayor of Winston-Salem

All speakers supported the I-73/I-74 Connector.

Bob Morgan with the Gaston Chamber of Commerce also addressed the Board. He voiced his frustration with the delay and extensions with the Gaston East-West Connector. Mr. Morgan stated that he did not think the delay was associated with funding but was not sure and asked for the Board's help in finding ways to quicken the process. He added that the project still maintains significant public support and asked the Board to help move this process forward.

Chairman Tippettt stated that all speakers who had signed up had been heard and asked if anyone else would like to address the Board. No one requested to speak.

Chairman Tippettt called on Mr. McKinney who thanked all from the community for attending the meeting. He also thanked the Turnpike Authority for coming to Greensboro and the speakers for their comments. Mr. McKinney stated that he believed this would be a good project for the community. He said that some traffic volume projections had been completed and that early projections exceeds 50,000 vehicles per day on the roadways in the area, and added that if Sandy Ridge Road is extended, traffic projections show 80,000 vehicles per day.

Board member Culbertson asked if the 50,000 vehicles per day referred to the toll facility if built, to which Mr. McKinney responded no, these projections referred to regular roadways.

Chairman Tippettt thanked PART for hosting the meeting and for the dinner at the O'Henry the night before. He also thanked the speakers for their time and told them the project would be considered.

Board member Lanny Wilson said that since Legislation allows the Authority to study six projects, he would like to make a motion, pursuant to NCGS 136-89.183(3), to study, plan, develop and undertake preliminary design work on the I-73/I-74 Connector as a potential Turnpike Project. The motion was seconded by Bob Spencer. Board member Culbertson said that he did not want to vote on this at that time because he would like more conversation with the consultants in terms of screening the project according to previously adopted preliminary selection criteria. He asked Mr. Wilson what the scope of the study would involve, to which Mr. Wilson responded that the project would be studied for feasibility purposes. Mr. Culbertson expressed concern about how much money, if any would be spent on studying the project.

Chairman Tippettt noted Mr. Culbertson's dissent, and then proceeded to call for a vote on the motion, which carried on a 6-1 vote.

Board member Anthony Fox wanted to follow up on Mr. Morgan's concerns over the Gaston Parkway, asking if the Turnpike would review the situation and get back with him on it. Chairman Tippettt called on Ms. Grimes to respond to Mr. Fox's inquiry. Ms. Grimes said that she understood that the last information that was needed to proceed was provided on June 10 and should end concurrence point two, which is an agreement between two agencies for detailed study, should have reached or should reach it this week. She added that NCDOT had turned the project over to HNTB. Mr. Culbertson asked if HNTB is diligently pushing this along or had it completely been turned over. Ms. Grimes said that the files had been completely turned over to HNTB and she referred the question to Whit Webb with HNTB to respond. Mr. Webb stated that HNTB is working to move forward on the project and that a project manager had been appointed. He said that the project manager had been reviewing the information over the last two weeks and they were moving forward.

Chairman Tippettt asked if there were any other questions. Being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jane Strickland